Douglas College

EFFECTIVE: SEPTEMBER 2007
CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

A. Division: **Education** Effective Date: **September 2007**

B. Department / Program Area: **Science & Technology**
Animal Health Technology

Revision [ ] New Course [X]

If Revision, Section(s) Revised:
Date of Previous Revision:
Date of Current Revision:

C: AHTT 1103 **D: Veterinary Care I** **E: 3**

Subject & Course No. | Descriptive Title | Semester Credits

F: Calendar Description:
In this course the components of the physical exam are introduced. Students will learn how to ascertain the basic medical history and vital signs of a patient, and how to record this data in veterinary records. Normal small and large animal behaviour, pain assessment, safe restraint, care of hospitalized animals, homecare and euthanasia are covered. The principles of basic pharmacology, fluid therapy theory (including calculations of correct dosages) and emergency procedures will be understood.

G: Allocation of Contact Hours to Type of Instruction / Learning Settings

Primary Methods of Instructional Delivery and/or Learning Settings:

Lecture/Laboratory

Number of Contact Hours: (per week / semester for each descriptor)

4 hours/week:
2 hours lecture/2 hours lab

Number of Weeks per Semester:

15 weeks

H: Course Prerequisites:

None

I: Course Corequisites:

None

J: Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite:

AHTT 1203

K: Maximum Class Size:

30

L: PLEASE INDICATE:

[ ] Non-Credit
[X] College Credit Non-Transfer
[ ] College Credit Transfer:

SEE BC TRANSFER GUIDE FOR TRANSFER DETAILS (www.bctransferguide.ca)

M: Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of Veterinary Care 1 (AHTT 1101), the student will be able to:

1. Describe the physical appearance of the healthy dog and cat (and other species), and recognize signs of illness in each.
2. Properly handle and restrain dogs, cats, birds and other small animals for physical exams and clinical procedures.
3. Be familiar with safe handling of domestic animals, including horses, cows, sheep, goats and pigs.
4. Use proper instruments and techniques to ascertain vital signs (TPR and blood pressure) for each species.
5. Observe and describe several normal behaviour signs and signs of pain in companion and domestic animals.
6. Demonstrate the ability to ascertain medical history and record both history and physical exam data professionally.
7. Demonstrate proper handling and nursing care of hospitalized patients, and explain homecare instructions.
8. Describe emergency procedures, and the clinical signs that indicate an emergency.
9. Demonstrate the techniques for examining, cleaning and medicating cats' and dogs' ears.
10. Understand basic pharmacology principles, and be familiar with drug dosage calculations, some common drug names, dosage forms and routes of administration.
11. Be familiar with kennel management, including basic sanitation and isolation procedures.
12. Demonstrate knowledge of appropriate intravenous and subcutaneous fluid therapy, including the basics of intravenous catheterization and calculation of proper fluid administration dosages.

N: Course Content:

Behaviour:

- Human-animal bond
- Staying safe with dogs; dog communication
- Defining behaviour (normal, abnormal, species differences)
- Canine & feline: housetraining
- Problem prevention – including discussions/demonstrations on socialization
- Destructive behaviours – prevention
- Aggressive behaviours –prevention

Handling and Restraint:

- Connection between understanding behaviour & safe handling
- Safe handling of each species (dogs, cats, birds, "pocket pets", horses and domestic animals)
- Restraint devices used in hospital and farm settings

Physical Exam and Record Keeping:

- Methods for record keeping in veterinary medicine – charting
- Components of the physical exam
- Age equivalencies in dogs and cats
- Triage

Pharmacology of Veterinary Care (introduction):

- Introduction of definitions required
- Common drug names, dosage forms available
- Mathematics required for drug dosages and conversions
- Routes of drug administration
- Review of drug classes affecting each body system – species differences

General Nursing Requirements:

- Attending to physical and psychological needs (including species differences)
- Monitoring vital signs and elimination
- Assessing pain and attitude
- Nutritional support
- Practical drug administration techniques

Kennel and Stall Management:

- Factors in choosing kennels/arrangements to decrease stress, viral transmission, and increase safety and well being.
- Review of sanitation – cleansers used in wards, kennels and stables, barns
- WHMIS
- Isolation procedures

Techniques in Nursing Care:

- Intravenous catheterization basics
- Urinary tract catheterization basics
- Oxygen delivery methods – nasal catheterization, mask, endotracheal, oxygen cage
- Species specific methods
- Rehabilitation and physical therapy

Fluid Therapy & Blood Transfusions:

- Theory of fluid therapy (fluid distribution, electrolytes, acid-base balance)
- Indications for fluid therapy, choice of product, routes of administration
- Client education /home care
- Transfusion medicine (including blood type review)
- Monitoring fluid administration and blood transfusions
- Complications

Emergency & Critical Care:

- Emergency procedures – endotracheal intubation, tracheostomy, thoracocentesis, chest tubes
- Jugular catheterization
- CPR
- Types of emergencies and AHT's role in treating selected common ones:
  a) Cardiovascular (hypovolemic shock, CHF, aortic thromboembolism)
  b) Acute abdomen emergencies (GDV)
  c) Urogenital emergencies (acute renal failure, FLUTD, dystocia, pyometra)
  d) Endocrine system (DKA, Addison's disease)

O. Methods of Instruction:

This course involves two hours of classroom instruction per week and two hours of laboratory activity per week. Off campus field trips for large animal practical skill instruction are also required.

P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students:

1. McCurnin, Dennis & Bassert, J.M. *Clinical Textbook for Veterinary Technicians.* Elsevier. 6th ed. 2006 (required)
2. Crowe, Steven E. *Manual of Clinical Procedures in the Dog, Cat & Rabbit*. Blackwell Publishing. 2nd edition, 1997 (required)
3. Sirois, Margi. *Principles and Practice of Veterinary Technology*. Mosby Inc. 2004 (recommended)
4. Clean lab coat and clinic shoes.

Q: Means of Assessment:

Quiz #1	20
Quiz # 2	20
Group Assignments & Projects	20
Final exam	25
Participation (self-evaluation) & attendance	15
	100%

Grades: A+ 95-100, A 90-94, A- 85-89, B+ 80-84, B 75-79, B- 70-74,

C+ 65-69, C 60-64, C- 55-59, P 50-54, F 0-49.

R	Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR Yes

Course Designer(s): Diane Boyle, DVM / Pauline Chow, DVM	Education Council / Curriculum Committee Representative
Dean / Director: Dr Sandy Vanderburgh	Registrar: Trish Angus